

MAY 10, 2003

SATURDAY

A14

OPINION

The Salt Lake Tribune

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Embrace the Wind

I was impressed with Christine Watson, Cathy Hartman and Edwin R. Stafford's article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on April 21. The article called for Gov. Mike Leavitt and the Utah Legislature to jump-start wind power in Utah.

After reading the article, I was disappointed that the Legislature failed to pass a "renewable portfolio standard" or tax incentive bill. Without a change in current policies, wind developers will look to neighboring states that are willing to provide incentives. Worldwide, the use of wind power has multiplied nearly fourfold over the last five years, a growth rate matched only by the computer industry.

The potential economic benefits from wind are enormous. U.S. manufacturing employment is, in general, on the decline. However, the production of wind equipment is potentially a large source of new manufacturing jobs. Wind farms can revitalize the economy of rural communities, providing a cash crop through lease and royalty payment to farmers and landowners. Local contractors are hired to install the turbines. Turbines require maintenance personnel over the long term. Wind farms expand the local tax base and energy dollars are kept in the local community.

Embrace the wind, our children will thank us for it. Embrace the wind, our lungs will thank us for it. Embrace the wind, it does not deplete natural resources like coal, oil or gas. Embrace the wind, and reduce pollution. Embrace the wind, and reinvent yourself.

CINDY TUGAW
Brigham City

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